

## Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 081113Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4677

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5429

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, PLO

SUBJECT: OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE PLO IN THE EC-ARAB  
DIALOGUE

1. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL RUTTEN TOLD DCM THAT AT NOVEMBER 7 MEETING OF EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN PARIS, FRENCH HAD REPORTED ON APPROACH MADE TO THEM BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF ARAB LEAGUE FORMALLY REQUESTING OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO IN EC-ARAB DIALOGUE. FRENCH HAD SUPPORTED THE REQUEST, ARGUING THAT THE US WAS MOVING FROM "RECONGNITION" OF THE PLO TO DEALING WITH IT IN ONE FASHION OR ANOTHER. FRECH SPECIFICALLY ALLEGED THAT SECRETARY HAD SENT WORD PRIVATELY TO YASSIR ARAFAT PROPOSING A SECRET MEETING IN CAIRO DURING HIS VISIT THERE EARLIER THIS WEEK. ARAFAT, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH, HAD REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT OBJECTION TO MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY BUT STIPULATED THAT THE MEETING MUST TAKE PLACE UNDER NORMAL CONDI-  
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TIONS.

2. RUTTEN SAID ONLY THE ITALIANS JOINED THE FRENCH IN REACTING FAVORABLY TO THE PLO INITIATIVE. THE DUTCH AND OTHERS WERE NEGATIVE OR DEMURRED, THE DUTCH POINTING OUT THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FOR THE EC-9 TO DECIDE TO SEAT THE PLO AS AN OBSERVER VIRTUALLY FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE WHEN THE PLO QUESTION WAS BEING DEBATED AT THE UNGA. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS COULD NOT REACH A COMMON POSITION OTHER THAN TO AGREE THAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD DISCUSS IT AT THEIR NOVEMBER 18 MEETING.

3. DESPITE THE LINE HE HAD TAKEN AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH HIS EC COLLEAGUES, RUTTEN EXPRESSED SOME UNEASINESS THAT THE NINE MIGHT BE OUTFLANKED BY THE US ON THE PLO QUESTION. HE SAID IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO HIS AUTHORITIES TO KNOW IF THE US HAD ANY PLAN TO MEET WITH ARAFAT, SECRETLY OR OTHERWISE. DCM SAID HE WOULD RELAY RUTTEN'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON AND ASK FOR A RESPONSE.  
GOULD

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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